

## **BAGRS Board Meeting 2/24/2014**

Meeting called to order at 9:15 am

### **Board members and guests present:**

- Don Watters, Frank Lucas, Chip Gierhart, Nancy Norris, Bill Allen, Mike Paterson, Richard Murray, Jim Anthony, Steve Smith

### **Minutes**

Steve Smith read the minutes from the previous year's board meeting. The minutes were accepted

### **Steamers Report**

Richard Murray reported on the live steamers activity and the very successful year they had. Over 30% of the BAGRS mailing list is steamers-related. They steamers' new portable track is working out very well and came in under budget.

### **Membership Report**

Frank Lucas gave the membership report. Membership has remained relatively steady, despite the difficulties the hobby has seen in recent years. Membership levels as of December 31 are:

2009 295

2010 292

2011 286

2012 268

2013 291

BAGRS has a 90%+ retention rate on members. The newsletter is a major factor in this. Many members who did not renew will renew when it comes time to show their layout. Frank would like to send newsletter notice of availability to all folks, even if they have not renewed. There have been 18 new members since start of the year.

### **Open House Report**

Mike Paterson reported on open houses. This past year the club experimented with open houses on both Saturdays and Sundays to try to avoid conflicts with football. This will continue in 2014: the first half of the year will have open houses on Sunday, and the second half will have them on Saturday.

### **Newsletter Report**

Ray Turner reported on the newsletter. He thanked all of the club members that have been contributing updates to the newsletter, many of them regularly. He asked anyone who still has issues accessing the newsletter to contact him.

### **Outreach Trailer**

Nancy Norris reported on the Roving RR. It was a good year for the Roving RR, culminating in a feature story in Garden Railways magazine's December issue. During the year the Roving RR was housed at multiple locations, a first for it. Nancy asked for volunteers to help at several upcoming high profile events.

### **Finance Report**

Chip Gierhart reported on finances for Bob Evans. The club has operating bank balances of \$7600, with another \$700 in PayPal. The club also has investments worth \$167,000. It is well prepared financially to stage the 2016 convention.

Chip announced that he and Bill Allen will be stepping off the board. The nominations for officers are Russ Miller (president) Jim Anthony (Vice President), Richard Murray, Jim Goss, Mike Paterson, Bob Evans (Treasurer) and Steve Smith (Secretary). The 2014 officers were voted on and accepted.

The formal business meeting was adjourned at 10:35

Richard Freedman of the Sacramento club spoke about their upcoming March clinic as well as the 2014 West Coast Regional meet that they will be hosting. It will be June 19-23 and should include 30+ layouts.

Jim Anthony thanked all of the volunteers that helped stage the meeting including Rosita Anthony, Jennifer Miller, Melinda Murray, Ann Meisner, Frank Lucas, Dave and Susan Jones, Rob Lenicheck, Gary Whaley and Harlan Barr

Presentation - Henner Meinhold on Railroading in Germany

Presentation - Roger Colton on Private Rail Cars, Past, Present & Future

Clinic – Kermit Paul hosted a clinic on automation

Clinic – Jack Verducci hosted a clinic on structures

Model Contest – the Model Contest was run by Gary Whaley  
Raffle – Jim Anthony ran the raffle